

# BRITISH GO JOURNAL

Editor: ANDREW DALY

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## European Congress held in Bristol

The 15th European Congress was held in Badock Hall, Bristol University, from 21st August to 4th September. This was the first time the European Congress had been held in Britain since the London Congress in 1966, and we were pleased to have not only the strongest entry ever for a European Congress, but also the honour of entertaining the Lord Mayor of Bristol, who opened the Congress. Of the 41 competitors, 31 were of 1st kyu and higher strength, although most of the strongest German players could not come.

The main event, the European Individual Championship, was won, as expected, by Zoran Mutab̄ija of Yugoslavia, the 1967 champion. He lost only to Henk de Vries, of Holland, who came second. Another Dutch player, Max Rebattu, was third. The 'Master Tournament' for 2-dan players was won very impressively by Robert Rehm, also from Holland. The team trophy is awarded on the basis of the results of the best three players from each country, and these three players made up the winning Dutch team.

We have to look at the lower tournaments to see a strong challenge from the home team. Tony Cooper lost the 'Master Candidates' - 1 dan and 1 kyu - tournament on a tie-break. This very close competition was won by Barišic of Yugoslavia, but also in with a chance near the end were Kiehl from Munich and Jim Bates from London. Francis Roads won 'Zone 1' - 2 kyu to 5 kyu - only losing one game, and Geoff Briggs won 'Zone 2' - 7 and 8 kyu.

The handicap tournament proved by far the most successful ever held at a European Congress, as more than 120 games were played. The first prize, for the most wins, went to John Allen of Edinburgh, with 12 out of 17. The second and third prizes were awarded on percentage results, and went to van Zanten (10/11) and Ivan Young (9/12) respectively.

Other entertainments included two lightning tournaments, discussion of professional games, and a showing of the Expo '70 Go Film, made by Nihon Kiin, and brought to Europe by Stuart Dowsey.

Detailed results are given on pages 14 and 15.

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## Editorial

This is the last issue of the Journal that I shall edit - John Sweeney will be taking over the job. I have enjoyed producing the Journal, but regret that I have been unable to publish it more regularly. I would like to thank all those who have contributed articles in the last two years, particularly John Tilley and John Fairbairn, and encourage them and every other member of the BGA to support the new editor.

## John Barrs Memorial Trophy

The Committee has decided that the John Barrs memorial trophy, to be awarded annually to the British National Champion, is to be a suitably inscribed quality Japanese Go board. Anybody who feels indebted to John Barrs for his work on behalf of Go in Britain is invited to send their contribution to the fund to the secretary. Cheques should be payable to the British Go Association.

## Secretary's Notes

from Derek Hunter

Club secretaries should please note:

1. It is their responsibility to keep me informed of any changes in club membership, secretaryship, etc.
2. The BGA is trying to establish a uniform national scale of handicaps. Club secretaries should be careful when promoting their players to base their ratings as far as possible on nearly even games with players from another club whose handicaps are known.
3. One reason for the reduced subscription rate for club members is the saving in postage possible only if secretaries batch their orders for books, etc., and if members correspond only through their secretary.

Would all members please note that subscriptions for 1972 are due before 1st January.

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## ODD NOTES ON GO

by J.T. Fairbairn

Stewart Culin, who was a great expert on Oriental games, points out in one of his books that the nine points on the Go board used for handicap stones represent,

according to traditional Chinese sources, the sun and the moon together with the seven stars of the constellation Tau (Ursa Major).

He gives as a further clue to the cosmical or astrological origins of Go the composition of the pictograph character kwá, which is the Chinese name for the squares on the board (kei in Japanese). It has two parts, one meaning four (sz') and the other referring to the diagrams used in divination (kwá, the phonetic component). The four diagrams represent the four sections of the board, North, South, East and West. This claim may not stand up to modern philological examination (Culin wrote in 1895) but it is nevertheless a fact that many ancient board games, particularly those deriving from the East, do have a cosmical or astrological significance based on the four directions, e.g. Pachisi, Nyout.

The moral of all this, of course, is, "Don't play Go on the night of the full moon with a Virgo!"

Good advice is also contained in a Chinese book called "Wú Ts'ah Tsú" where it says, "Next to wine and women Go leads men astray. If they think it difficult even village boys and common people can play it very skilfully; but if it be thought very easy even the wisest and most intelligent, though they investigate it through generations, may not acquire it correctly".

## NEWS

### Wessex Go Tournament

The second Wessex Tournament was held on Sunday, 31st October - again in Marlborough Town Hall. Exactly twice as many players entered this year and it seems that this event is now well established after last year's inauguration.

The main characteristics of the tournament also seem firmly settled. Handicap games, played fairly quickly, are the order of the day. The traditional style of the Town Hall itself and the excellence of the volunteer catering add touches of distinction.

The main prize is the Robnor Paints Trophy, a cup awarded to the winner of the top group, who also received an engraved Go Board - as did all the other divisional winners. This year the trophy went to Rick Hubbell, an American now staying in London. The decisive game was in the last round, when he beat Andrew Daly (Reading) by one point.

The second division was won by Mike Roberts of Bristol, who led a very successful Bristol contingent, which won 73% of its games. Still more successful were Harwell (75%) and Woodford (81%), who took the next two divisions, before Bristol came back to take Divisions 5 and 6.

DIVISION 1 (3 dan - 1 kyu) 8 players

- |                           |        |
|---------------------------|--------|
| 1. R. Hubbell (3d, L)     | 3 wins |
| 2. A. Daly (2d, R)        | 2      |
| 3. J. Cock (1d, Ch)       | 2      |
| 4. J. Sweeney (1k, Ca, L) | 2      |

DIVISION 3 (5 kyu - 7 kyu) 9

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. D. Wilmore (5k, H) | 3 |
| 2. J. Perring (5k, H) | 3 |
| 3. R. Smith (6k, Ca)  | 3 |
| 4. P. Langley (7k, B) | 3 |

DIVISION 5 (11 kyu - 14 kyu) 10

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. C. Greef (11k, B)      | 4 |
| 2. A. Somerville (14k, B) | 4 |

DIVISION 2 (2 kyu - 4 kyu) 8

- |                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| 1. M. Roberts (2k, B) | } 4 wins |
| 2. D. Hunter (3k, R)  |          |
| D. Sutton (3k, R)     |          |
| 4. M. Amin (4k, Ca)   |          |

DIVISION 4 (8 kyu - 10 kyu) 9

- |                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. J. Hawdon (8k, W)  | } 4 |
| 2. P. Atwell (10k, B) |     |
| L. Nelson (10k, W)    |     |

DIVISION 6 (15 kyu +) 8

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. C. Barton (15k, B) | 4 |
|-----------------------|---|

B = Bristol, Ca = Cambridge, Ch = Cheltenham, R = Reading, H = Harwell,  
W = Woodford, L = London.

